



## Energy Program to Provide Energy Audits to 18 Indiana Communities

### *Community Energy Program Will Pay For Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program Design*

For Immediate Release

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(Indianapolis) – Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has announced 18 Hoosier communities have been selected to take part in the Community Energy Program (CEP). CEP will provide energy audits for public facilities in each community along with the creation of a strategic energy plan with both short and long-term energy efficiency goals. Each plan will be unveiled in a community meeting. The CEP program uses federal funds administered by the Indiana Office of Energy Development.

The communities chosen for the program are Clarksville, Connersville, Dublin, Gas City, Greensburg, Hagerstown, Linton, Monticello, Monroe County, New Castle, Paoli, Peru, Plymouth, Rushville, Scottsburg, Union City, Washington, and Winamac. The communities were selected through a competitive process for which 63 Indiana communities had applied. Cities and towns with populations under 35,000 and counties with less than 200,000 residents were eligible for the CEP program.

“What an opportunity this is for these Hoosier communities,” said Lt. Governor Skillman. “With this program each will receive a usable and interactive energy plan that will be tailored to its unique needs. These communities are being proactive about saving energy and keeping taxpayer costs down.”

The energy audits will be performed by Schmidt Associates. Schmidt Associates, an Indianapolis architecture and engineering firm, was chosen from 13 companies that applied to provide the energy plan services. Each audit and plan development will cost an average of \$56,620.00.

Each CEP community will receive a comprehensive energy plan which will include an inventory of all energy usage at public facilities in the community, a full energy audit to identify potential energy savings measures, an established baseline for utility bills, a list of short-term and long-term energy goals for the community, suggestions to streamline energy decision-making and purchasing processes, ideas for funding energy efficiency projects, and a public meeting to inform the entire community about the new, comprehensive energy plan.

Work on these plans should begin sometime in September. The plan creation for all communities should be completed by December 31, 2011.

CEP was funded through the Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant (EECBG) program, a federally funded program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This program is restricted to non-entitlement communities in Indiana.

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The Office of Energy Development (OED) was created in December 2005 as an extension of the Indiana energy office. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, OED is responsible for the state's energy policy. For more information visit [www.energy.in.gov](http://www.energy.in.gov). or follow OED on twitter, IndianaEnergy.

For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at [www.in.gov/lg/](http://www.in.gov/lg/)